

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /080 W

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O R 161440Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7538

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG, UN

SUBJ: ISRAEL I RESPONSE TO FAHMI LETTER ON UNEF

1.RESPONDING TO LIKUD MOTION IN KNESSET TODAY FOR POLITICAL
DEBATE INTERIM AGREEMENT, PRIME MINISTER RABIN
MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE: WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
INTERIM SETTLEMENT ARE UNDERWAY, THE TIME FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE
UN FORCES MANDATE IN THE EGYPTIAN SECTOR IS DRAWING NEAR. THE
ISRAEL GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY GIVEN ITS OWN OFFICIAL CONSENT
TO THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE UN FORCE. THIS IS A
DIRECT AND NATURAL FUNCTION OF OUR POLICY. LAST NIGHT WE HEARD
THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT. ISRAEL ADHERES
TO ITS COMMITMENTS DERIVING FROM THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. IF EGYPT
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DESIRES TO PRESERVE THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, IT TOO WILL

HAVE TO RESPECT THE EXISTENCE AND AUTHORITY OF THE UN FORCE,
WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FORCES DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.
MOREOVER, WHOEVER WANTS THE NEGOTIATIONS ON PROGRESS TOWARD
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO CONTINUE IN AN APPROPRIATE ATMOSPHERE
SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY STEP THAT MIGHT INCREASE THE TENSION IN
THE MIDDLE LEAST. ISRAEL HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ACT THUS.UNQUOTE.

2. RABIN'S TATEMENT WAS BASICALLY IDENTICAL WITH ANNOUNCEMENT
OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN MADE EARLIER IN DAY.

3. EMBOFF AT KNESSET WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL MEMBERS THAT
THEY VIEWED GOI STATEMENTS ON FAHMI LETTER AS " VEILED" WARNING
TO EGYPTIANS THAT MAINTENANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT
WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH SIDES AND THAT EGYPT
COULD NOT EXPECT TO UNILATERALLY ABROGATE PART OF THE AGREEMENT
AND EXPECT ISRAEL TO CONTINUE HONORING THE REST. REACTION
IN LOCAL PRESS CIRCLES WAS THAT GOI HAD SERVED NOTICE IT
WOULD NOT KNUCKLE UNDER TO EGYPTIAN DEADLINE RE SECOND
INTERIM AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: RABIN'S HANDLING OF ISSUE PUBLICLY IN
KNESSET WAS RESTRAINED AND WITHIN CONTEXT OF EXPLAINING
ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SEEK NEW AGREEMENT
WITH EGYPT.
TOON

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06 JUL 2006

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